MARVEL
THE PUNISHER 2099
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
2099
MORGAN

HIS FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY A PSYCHOPATH IN AN AGE WHERE JUSTICE CAN BE BOUGHT AND NO ONE BELIEVES IN OLD FASHIONED *PUNISHMENT* ANYMORE... NO ONE EXCEPT *JAKE GALLOWS*... A WEAPONS SPECIALIST IN THE *PUBLIC EYE* POLICE FORCE BY DAY, AT NIGHT HE IS INCORRUPTIBLE JUSTICE.

STAN LEE PRESENTS :

THE PUNISHER 2099

I'M THROUGH THE *LOCKING SYSTEM*... SHORTING OUT THE CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT...
GET IT RIGHT, DUKE, THIS IS OUR ONE AND ONLY CHANCE...
WHRRRR
YES!
WHICH WAY?
DOWN HERE... TO THE... *THE ARMORY*-- WHERE THE PUNISHER'S SIDEKICK HANGS OUT.
JAKE...?

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PUNISHMENT HOTEL
'FRAID NOT, FLUNKY! HOPE YOU GOT MY BAGS READY--'CAUSE...
...IT'S CHECK-OUT TIME!
PAT MILLS & TONY SKINNER WRITERS
TOM MORGAN PENCILER
JIMMY PALMIOTTI INKER
KEN LOPEZ LETTERER
IAN LAUGHLIN COLORIST
JOEY CAVALIERI EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO PUBLIC EYE

THE VARI-WEIGHTS ARE OKAY... BUT I'D REALLY LIKE A "TOTAL BODY" GRAV ROOM FOR MY TRAINING SESSIONS...
BZZZ
ALARM! MATT'S IN TROUBLE!
HE WAS WORKING DOWN IN THE CELL COMPLEX.
SHOCK IT! THE PRISONERS HAVE ESCAPED!
YOUR BOYFRIEND'S IN HERE, PUNISHER! IN THE DEATH CELL!
IF YOU'VE HURT HIM, YOU'RE COMING OUT IN A DUST BAG!

TREMBLE! QUAKE! MY TEETH ARE CHATTERING!
GOT THE PICTURE, PUNISHER...? TAKE US THROUGH YOUR SECURITY SYSTEM AND OUT OF HERE...
...OR YOUR FRIEND GETS VAPED! HAA, HAA, HAAA!
I'LL GIVE YOU A DEAL, SCUM... GO QUIETLY BACK INTO YOUR CAGES AND I JUST MIGHT FORGET YOUR LITTLE STUNT!
YOU AIN'T TOO BRIGHT, PUN! WHEN I PULL THIS SWITCH, HE COMES APART MOLECULE BY MOLECULE! WON'T BE NOTHING LEFT BUT A WARM BREEZE!
SO DO IT, PUNK...
IF YOU'VE GOT THE GUTS.

I WARNED YOU, MAN! YOUR BUDDY FRIES!
WH...? THE DISINTEGRATOR'S TURNING ON ME!
ZZZAKKK
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW, MATT? THE FAIL-SAFE YOU INSTALLED SEEMS TO WORK. ANY UNAUTHORIZED USER GETS A LETHAL SUN TAN.
... SAME SYSTEM ON THE GUNS-- RIGHT?
CHECK!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

TOM TALKS

As the Idiot-In-Chief of Marvel Comics, I receive a lot of mail. Loyal readers like you are always letting me know whenever they have a great idea, an intriguing suggestion, or they're unhappy about something. I hear about plot points, creative changes, prices, printing quality, cover designs and everything else related to the comics we produce each and every month. Heck, I've even heard from one guy who knows how we can improve the quality of the staples we use to hold the comics together. (And, we're studying his proposal very carefully!)

I am very grateful to all of you who have ever taken the time to write. It's always great to hear from you. We need to know when we're doing right, and when we're doing wrong. We need to know our mistakes so that we can fix them. And, we can never have enough ideas on how to improve, intrigue, and innovate!

Marvel Comics isn't perfect, but that's not because we aren't trying. Our motto is "If it ain't broke, make it better!"

Our goal is to provide you with the very best comic book entertainment the universe has ever seen! We can't do that without your help! Please keep those postcards and letters coming, and ...

Thanks for being there!

Tom D.

"April is the wettest month" — Prince Namor once said, and who are to disagree? As the clouds of April continue to reign o'er us, this is as good a time as any for us to clear the air (and sea) of a few things, and get something off our treasure chests. We begin with a correction: it seems painter **Joe Chiodo**, who works more on his brushstroke than he does on his backstroke, was not given proper credit for one of his recent masterworks. Joe is

the man responsible for the ultra-artistic Spider-Man/Venom poster that came out not so long ago. However, his signature was obscured by the "Venom" logo!

Special projects editor **Bob Budiansky** and poster editor **Chris Cooper** asked us to mention this oversight to Marveldom Assembled. Chris noted that the piece is "one of our most successful posters ever," and wanted to set the record straight.

Now that we've washed our hands of that bit of business, we can open the floodgates of information for some happy news. It seems our TRIAL OF VENOM comic for UNICEF touched off a tidal wave of tenderness among our readers. Many of you went diving down into your wallets and were caught up in a whirlpool of warmth for this special custom comic. THE TRIAL OF VENOM was not sold in any stores — instead, it could be ordered through the mail only through a $5.00 contribution to UNICEF.

Barry Kaplan of our Custom Publishing Department informs us that contributions were received for approximately 140,000 copies of the comic, raising in excess of $500,000 for the U.S. Committee for UNICEF. This amount of money will immunize 50,000 of the world's children against childhood diseases. Let's all shower praise upon Barry and his editorial water-wizards, **Glenn Herdling** and **Hector Collazo**, for putting this whole thing together. Great work, guys. The raincheck is in the mail!

One event that was definitely not a washout was the recent 2099 Summit. The summit was held on March 2-3 at the mega-luxurious Mark hotel, and most of the creators of the 2099 titles showed up to jump into the creative pool. 2099 editor **Joey Cavalieri** presided like King Poseidon over this raindance, with assistant editor **Sarra Mossoff** as his trident bearer.

Coming from across the sea were **Pat Mills** and **Tony Skinner** (co-writers of PUNISHER 2099) from England, who kept commenting on how friendly the people in New York were! (As Joey noted later, "I kept wondering if we were looking at the same people!") Pat and Tony will also be taking over the scripting reins of RAVAGE 2099, as **Stan** the Man **Lee** is swimming up a different stream these days. Stan was in attendance at the summit, though, to make sure Ravage keeps his head above water.

The SPIDER-MAN 2099 team of **Peter David** and **Rick Leonardi** were there, as were PUNISHER 2099 penciler **Tom Morgan** and DOOM 2099 scribe **John Francis Moore**.. John will also be working on the new X-MEN 2099 book with artists **Ron Lim** and **Adam Kubert**, which is due in August.

Joey called the summit a splashing success. "It gave us the opportunity to see what we could do better, to try to improve the books across the boards. It was a chance to re-evaluate the line. We all had a great time, and our enthusiasm will will show up in the stories. I hope opportunity comes to do it again next year."

That's all for this week! See you down at the watering hole!

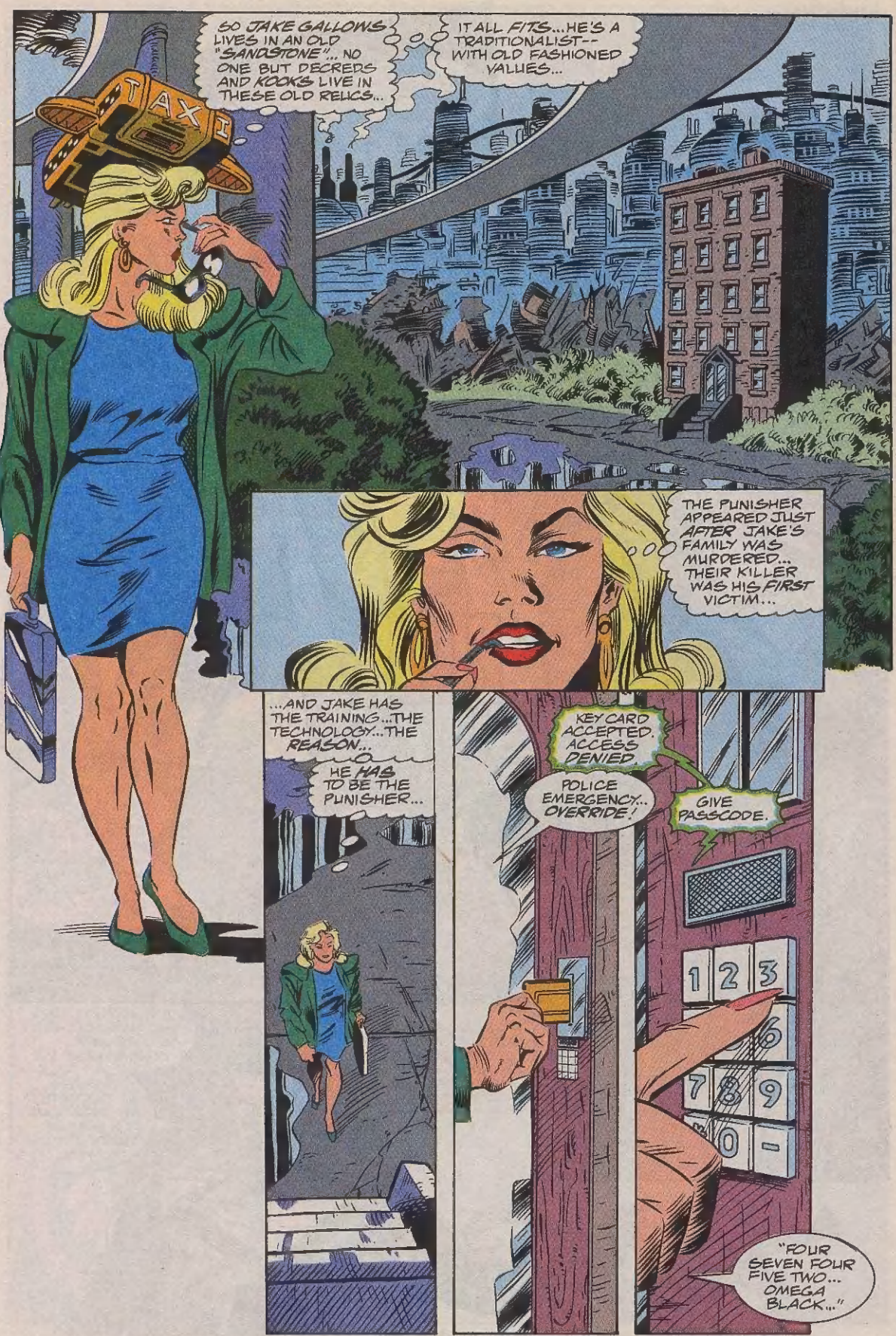
HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **BARBIE FASHION #30:** Barbie's luck runs out when Lucky the dog goes AWOL!
- ☐ **BLACK AXE #3:** Guest-starring **Death's Head 2** against **Mephisto!**
- ☐ **DEATH'S HEAD 2 #7:** Major Oak wants D.H. to lose his head!
- ☐ **DEATHLOK #24: Moses Magnum** disarms Deathlok — literally!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO: CLASSIC COMICS #6:** Our prescription for excitement!
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #54:** An **Infinity Crusade** crossover!
- ☐ **DRAGON LINES #2 OF 4:** When the **Monkey King** battles the Emperor, the Great Wall is gonna come tumblin' down!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #377:** Things heat up when Johnny goes on trial for *arson!*
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #26:** Introducing **Wildstreak!**
- ☐ **FIGHT-MAN ONE-SHOT:** The funniest fight scene you'll read this week!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #11:** Caught in the man-spider's web!
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #102:** Groo now has some intelligence! Look out!
- ☐ **HELLSTORM #3:** Learn the *truth* about the Prince of Lies!
- ☐ **THE INCOMPLETE DEATH'S HEAD #6 OF 12:** That title conjures up a gross picture, doesn't it?
- ☐ **THE INFINITY CRUSADE # 1 OF 6:** The final installment to the Infinity Trilogy!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #293:** The **Controller** is back, and he's out of control!
- ☐ **LAWDOG #2:** Flint Henry's artwork will strike a few sparks!
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #131:** Prof. Felder is scripting the **Wolverine** story! Yow!
- ☐ **METEOR MAN #2 OF 6:** Beyond the book! Beyond the movie!
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #51:** It's a sure bet when **Gambit** shows up!
- ☐ **MOTORMOUTH #13: Death's Head 2** and **Killpower** team up again!
- ☐ **Mys-TECH WARS #4 OF 4:** Merry Christmas! War is over!
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #81:** The conclusion of the Tet offensive!
- ☐ **NEW WARRIORS #36:** Violence in the Vault with **Marvel Boy!**
- ☐ **PUNISHER 2099 #5:** Punishment Hotel! Criminals check in...and then they check out ... permanently!
- ☐ **PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #55:** What's black and white and red all over? The Punisher fighting a bunch of rednecks!
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER #81:** Surf meets **Tyrant,** perhaps the most dangerous foe he's ever faced! (After Mephisto, Thanos, Galactus ...)
- ☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #201: Carrion** joins the Maximum Carnage!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN/PUNISHER/SABRE TOOTH: DESIGNER GENES:** Pardon me — are those Mutant-Boy genes you're wearing?
- ☐ **WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEKWORLD #10:** Beam up for adventure!
- ☐ **TERROR, INC. #12:** Terror is back from the *dead* again!
- ☐ **THOR #463: INFINITY CRUSADES** crossover!
- ☐ **JOE KUBERT'S TOR #1 OF 4:** Tor vs.the volcano!
- ☐ **U.S. AGENT #1 OF 4:** Versus the final Scourge!
- ☐ **VENOM #5 OF 6:** Venom gives birth to five more *symbiotes!* Have a cigar!
- ☐ **WARHEADS #13:** Col. Liger's been captured by reptiles!
- ☐ **WHAT THE?! SUMMER SPECIAL:** Special ECCHS-MEN issue!
- ☐ **X-FORCE #23: Six-Pack** wants to pop open X-Force!
- ☐ **X-MEN CLASSIC #84:** Before the Infinity War, there were ... the *Secret Wars!*
- ☐ **X-MEN UNLIMITED #1:** Versus **Sienna Blaze!**

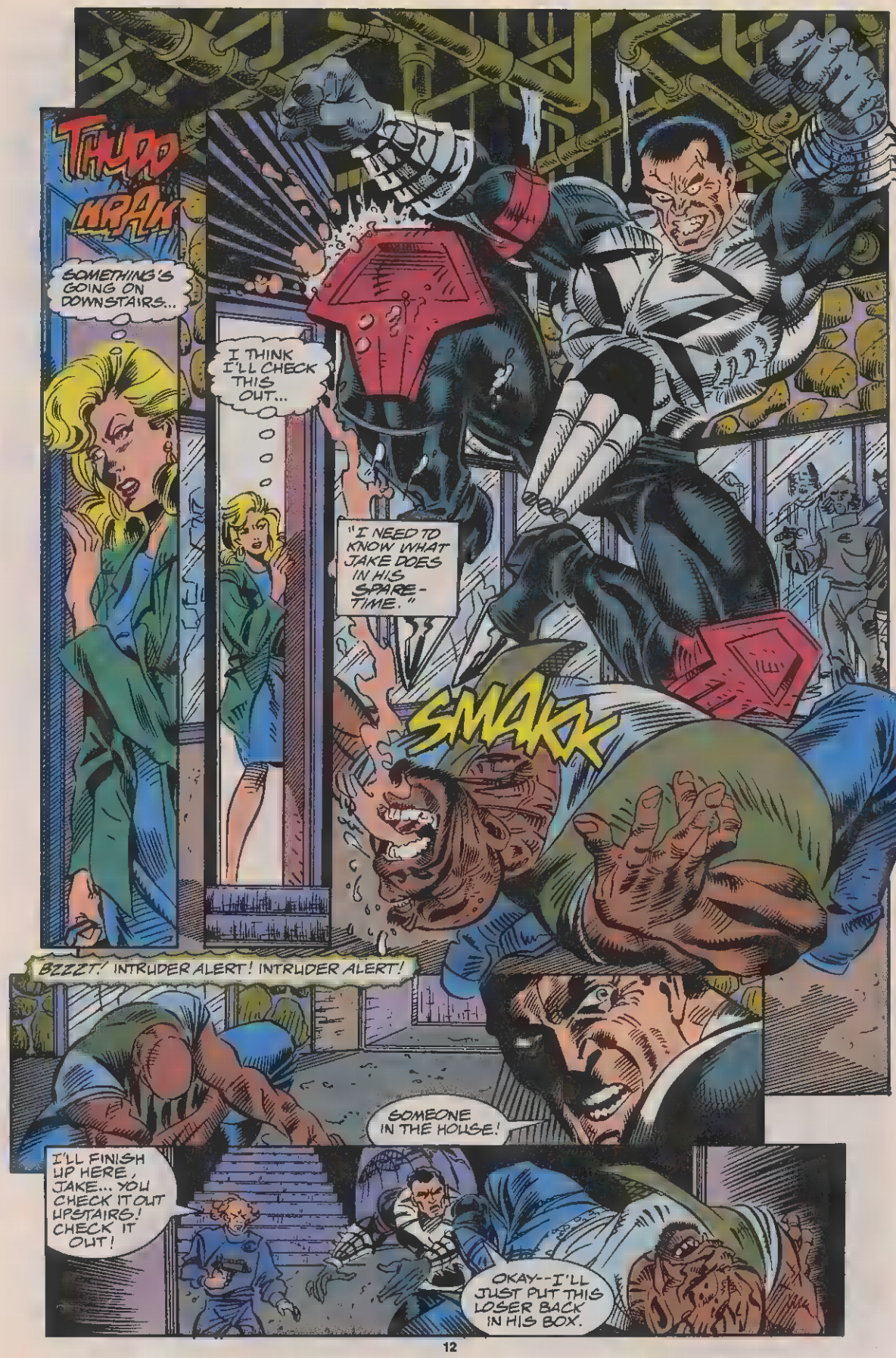
TOXINS PARTING SHOTS BLAST TRAUMA MARRIAGE BULLPEN BORDERLINE BLATHER STOCK CHAOS THEORY INDUSTRIAL BEAT PRODUCT

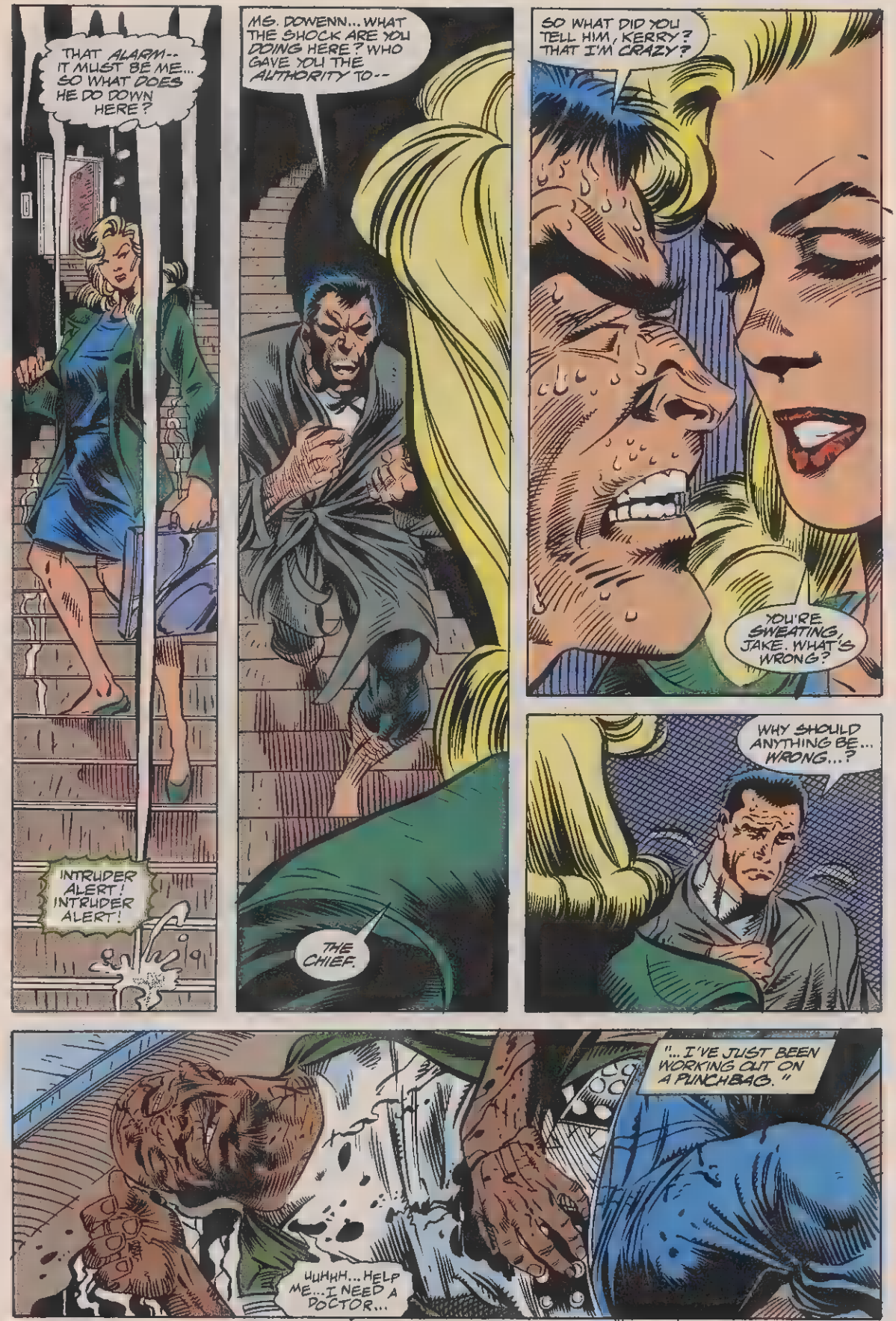
UUUH? YOU'VE JAMMED THE GUNS?
I SAY YOU'RE BLUFFING.
WELL COME ON, YOGI... PULL THE TRIGGER... LET'S FIND OUT...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU CAN'T MISS FROM THIS RANGE.
DO IT! COME ON, DOG-BREATH! SHOOT ME!
ER, DUKE... I THINK WE SHOULD GO BACK IN OUR CELLS.
HE'S RIGHT... THIS GUY AIN'T ALL THERE. I'M SAFER IN MY CELL.

DUKE...YOU'VE BEEN STANDING THERE FOR FIVE MINUTES. MAKE YOUR MOVE...OR FOLLOW THE OTHERS INTO THE CELLS...
THIS IS CRUD...YOU'RE GIVING ME BULL!
SEE...? IT FIRES REAL GOOD, PUNISHER!
BLAM
YEAH-- NOTHING WRONG WITH THE GUN, BUT YOU'RE A LOUSY SHOT!
WHAAAGHHH!
NOW GET BACK IN YOUR CELL!
NO WAY, MAN. I'M NOT GOING BACK. I'D RATHER DIE!
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO PULL THAT TRIGGER, 'CAUSE I'M COMING PAST YOU.
THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY. I GAVE HIM TIME-- SO HE'S GOING TO DO TIME.
I'M NOT PULLING THE TRIGGER AND YOU'RE NOT COMING PAST ME.
YOU INTERRUPTED MY WORKOUT. I'M GONNA WORK OUT ON YOU.


SO JAKE GALLOWS LIVES IN AN OLD "SANDSTONE"... NO ONE BUT DECREPS AND KOOKS LIVE IN THESE OLD RELICS...
IT ALL FITS...HE'S A TRADITIONALIST--WITH OLD FASHIONED VALUES...
TAXI
THE PUNISHER APPEARED JUST AFTER JAKE'S FAMILY WAS MURDERED... THEIR KILLER WAS HIS FIRST VICTIM...
...AND JAKE HAS THE TRAINING...THE TECHNOLOGY...THE REASON...
HE HAS TO BE THE PUNISHER...
KEY CARD ACCEPTED. ACCESS DENIED.
POLICE EMERGENCY... OVERRIDE!
GIVE PASSCODE.
1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
0 -
"FOUR SEVEN FOUR FIVE TWO... OMEGA BLACK..."

JAKE'LL HATE ME FOR THIS, BUT "HABIT INTERRUPTION"--THE SURPRISE VISIT--IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY WORK... IF I'M WRONG, HE'LL UNDERSTAND.
...BUT IF I'M RIGHT, HE'LL NEED RADICAL BRAIN SURGERY--A TOTAL MIND-SCRUB...
"...TO ERASE HIS SOCIOPATHIC URGES."
LAST TIME I WAS GOING EASY... I DIDN'T WANT TO WIN... THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT...
SURE. THIS TIME YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO GET HURT!
CHEW THIS, CREEP!
UUUGKKK!

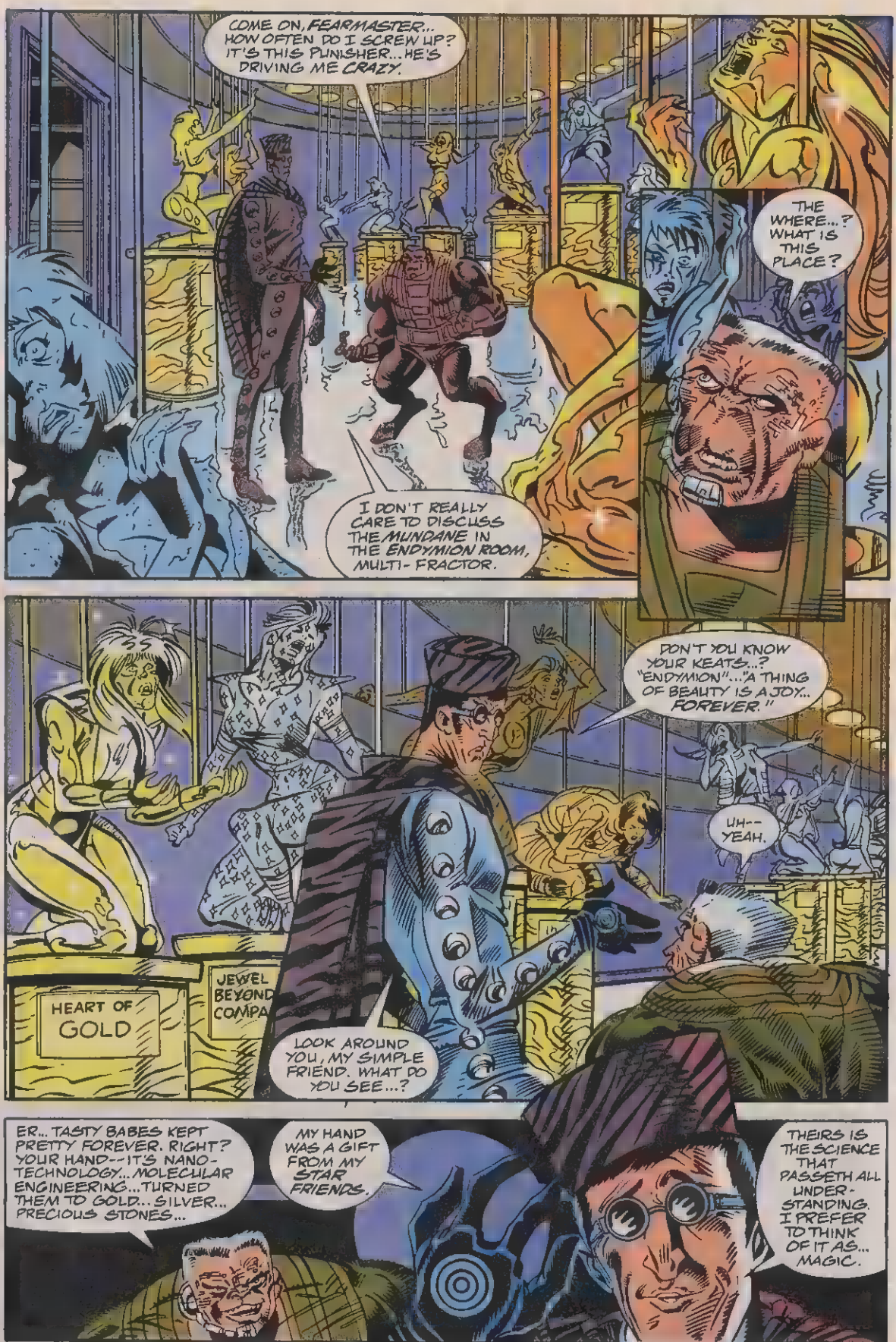

THUDD
KRAK
SOMETHING'S GOING ON DOWNSTAIRS...
I THINK I'LL CHECK THIS OUT...
"I NEED TO KNOW WHAT JAKE DOES IN HIS SPARE-TIME."
SMAKK
BZZZT! INTRUDER ALERT! INTRUDER ALERT!
SOMEONE IN THE HOUSE!
I'LL FINISH UP HERE, JAKE... YOU CHECK IT OUT UPSTAIRS! CHECK IT OUT!
OKAY--I'LL JUST PUT THIS LOSER BACK IN HIS BOX.

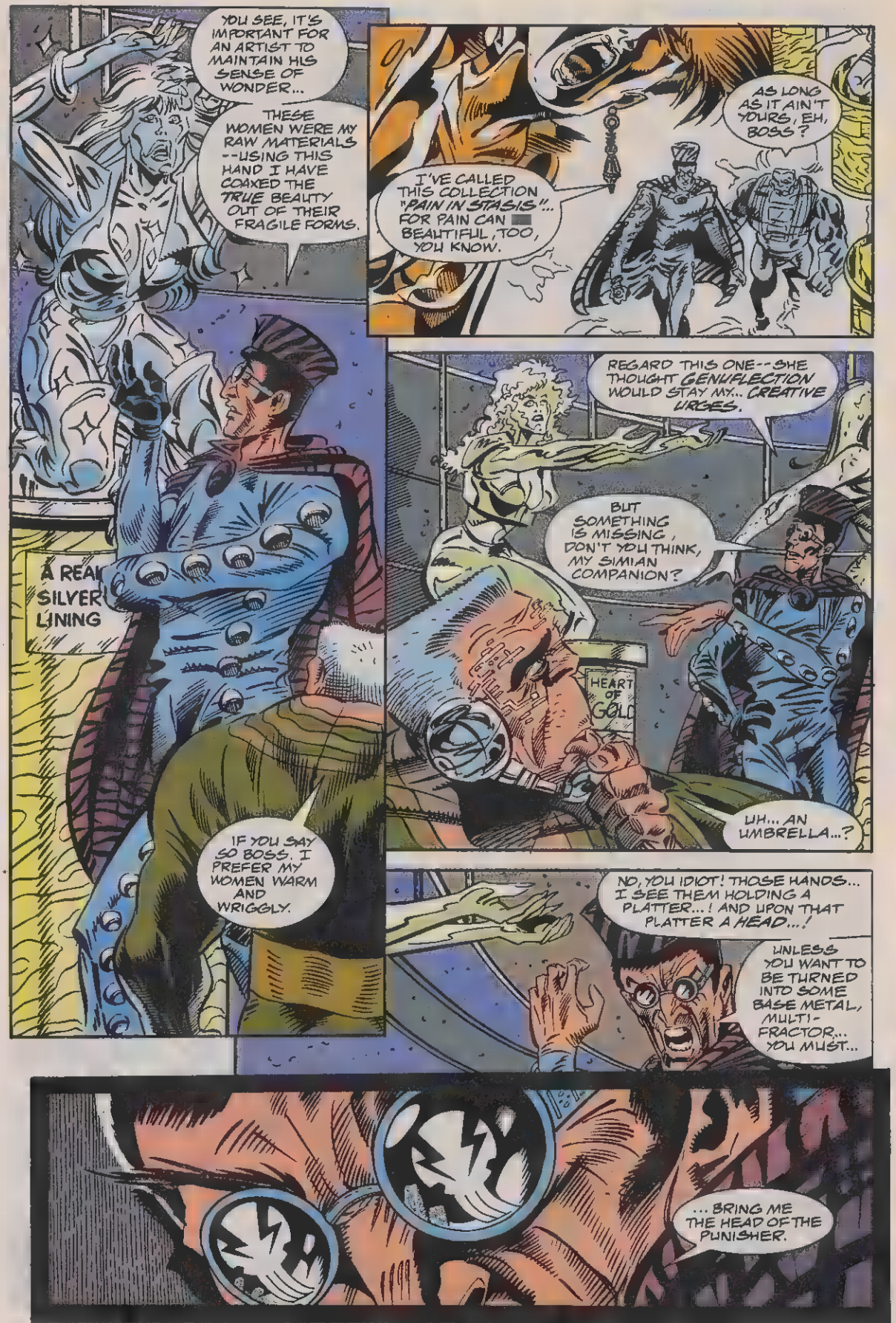

THAT ALARM-- IT MUST BE ME... SO WHAT DOES HE DO DOWN HERE?
INTRUDER ALERT! INTRUDER ALERT!
MS. DOWENN... WHAT THE SHOCK ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHO GAVE YOU THE AUTHORITY TO--
THE CHIEF.
SO WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM, KERRY? THAT I'M CRAZY?
YOU'RE SWEATING, JAKE. WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY SHOULD ANYTHING BE... WRONG...?
UUHHH... HELP ME... I NEED A DOCTOR...
"... I'VE JUST BEEN WORKING OUT ON A PUNCHBAG."

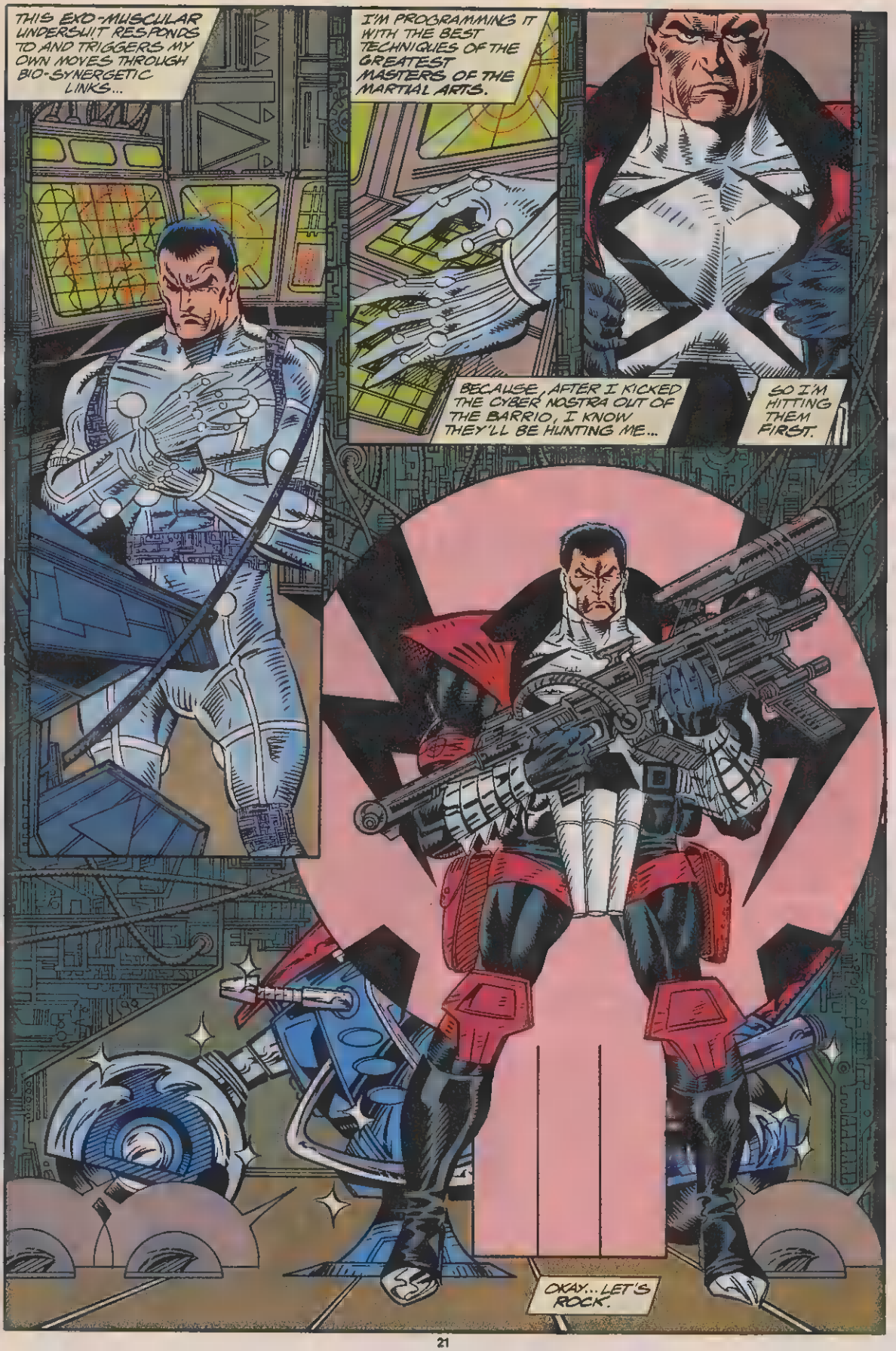
IS THAT HOW YOU DISPLACE YOUR AGGRESSION, JAKE?
WHAT AGGRESSION...? I'M A REALLY LAID BACK GUY.
LISTEN, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME WHILE I GET CHANGED. I'D RATHER WE WERE COMFORTABLE, IF WE'VE GOT TO DO THIS.
WH--? THIS PLACE IS WEIRD! SO OLD FASHIONED... THOSE ANTIQUE SCREEN-PICS... YOU WERE BROUGHT UP HERE, WEREN'T YOU?
OKAY.. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO START...?
YOUR CHILDHOOD, I THINK...
YOU WERE BROUGHT UP IN THE CHURCH OF THOR, I BELIEVE...?
SURE, I WAS A THORITE. ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?
NOTHING. BUT THORISTS PREACH REVENGE. THEY'RE NOT STRONG ON FORGIVENESS... HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FEEL?
I DON'T KNOW, JAKE. YOU TELL ME.

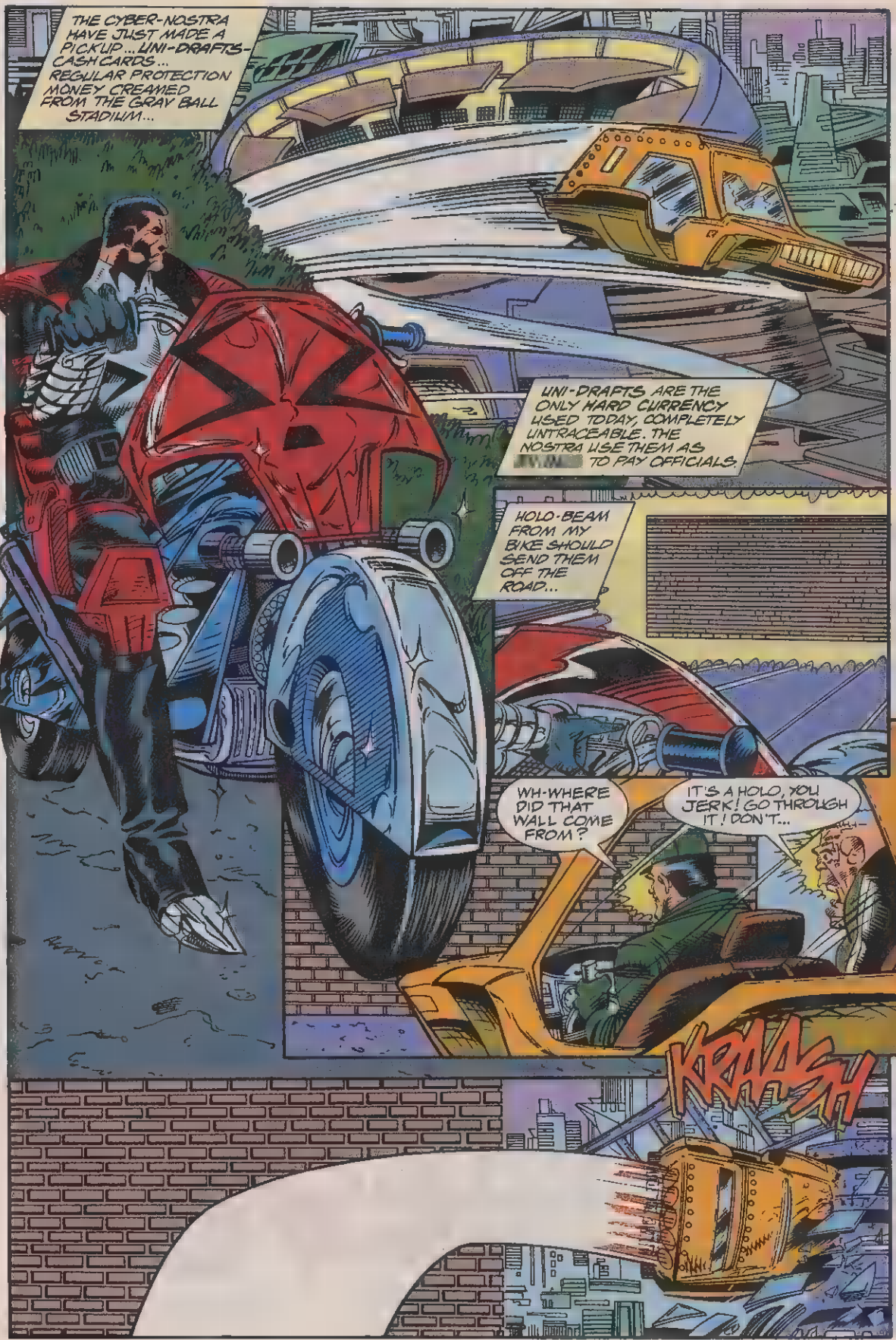
WELL... I DON'T FEEL MUCH AT ALL.
COME ON... OPEN UP TO ME, JAKE... DID YOU FEEL A NEED FOR REVENGE WHEN YOUR MOM AND BROTHER BALDUR DIED...?
LOOK... I LOVE MOM.
THAT'S WHY DAD HAD TO DIE.
I...I HAD TO KILL HIM. YOU SEE THAT, DON'T YOU?
YOU... :GULP!:
IT'S OKAY, JAKE. I'M LISTENING... JUST LET IT ALL OUT.
THANK THOR... I HAD TO TELL SOMEBODY. GET IT OFF MY CHEST... AFTER I KILLED DAD, IT WAS ALL RIGHT FOR A WHILE...
THE VOICES STOPPED COMMANDING ME...
THEN MOM STARTED SEEING "UNCLE" HARRY AND HE HAD TO DIE AS WELL. THEN IT WAS "UNCLE" JIM AND "UNCLE" BOB...
THEY ALL HAD TO BE... PUNISHED!
"PUNISHED", JAKE...?

YES, KERRY--I AM THE PUNISHER! I WASN'T WORKING OUT WHEN YOU CAME IN. I KEEP A BUNCH OF CRIMINALS IN CAGES AND BEAT THEM UP FROM TIME TO TIME!
I'VE GOT MY PUNISHER COSTUME IN THE BEDROOM! D'YOU WANT TO SEE IT? WE COULD...
YOU ****! DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M THAT STUPID?
SMAK
YES, KERRY, I DO! OF COURSE I'M UPSET BY THE DEATH OF MY FAMILY! OF COURSE I'M TRYING TO HIDE IT! I'M TRYING TO KEEP MY JOB...! HOLD MY LIFE TOGETHER!
WHAT DO YOU PARA-PSYCHS WANT...?
JAKE...OH LORD... I'M SO SORRY..
I...I'VE BEEN SO WRONG ABOUT YOU. YOU MUST THINK I'M THE CRAZY ONE.
IT'S OKAY, KERRY... IT'S OKAY... I GUESS WE'RE BOTH UNDER PRESSURE...
THIS WHOLE PUNISHER THING IS DRIVING US ALL A LITTLE CRAZY.


COME ON, FEARMASTER.. HOW OFTEN DO I SCREW UP? IT'S THIS PUNISHER... HE'S DRIVING ME CRAZY.
I DON'T REALLY CARE TO DISCUSS THE MUNDANE IN THE ENDYMION ROOM, MULTI-FRACTOR.
THE WHERE...? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
DON'T YOU KNOW YOUR KEATS...? "ENDYMION"..."A THING OF BEAUTY IS A JOY.. FOREVER."
UH-- YEAH.
HEART OF GOLD
JEWEL BEYOND COMPA
LOOK AROUND YOU, MY SIMPLE FRIEND. WHAT DO YOU SEE...?
ER... TASTY BABES KEPT PRETTY FOREVER. RIGHT? YOUR HAND--IT'S NANO-TECHNOLOGY... MOLECULAR ENGINEERING... TURNED THEM TO GOLD... SILVER... PRECIOUS STONES...
MY HAND WAS A GIFT FROM MY STAR FRIENDS.
THEIRS IS THE SCIENCE THAT PASSETH ALL UNDER-STANDING. I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS... MAGIC.


YOU SEE, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR AN ARTIST TO MAINTAIN HIS SENSE OF WONDER...
THESE WOMEN WERE MY RAW MATERIALS --USING THIS HAND I HAVE COAXED THE TRUE BEAUTY OUT OF THEIR FRAGILE FORMS.
I'VE CALLED THIS COLLECTION "PAIN IN STASIS"... FOR PAIN CAN BE BEAUTIFUL, TOO, YOU KNOW.
AS LONG AS IT AIN'T YOURS, EH, BOSS?
A REAL SILVER LINING
IF YOU SAY SO BOSS, I PREFER MY WOMEN WARM AND WRIGGLY.
REGARD THIS ONE--SHE THOUGHT GENUFLECTION WOULD STAY MY... CREATIVE URGES.
BUT SOMETHING IS MISSING, DON'T YOU THINK, MY SIMIAN COMPANION?
HEART OF GOLD
UH... AN UMBRELLA...?
NO, YOU IDIOT! THOSE HANDS... I SEE THEM HOLDING A PLATTER...! AND UPON THAT PLATTER A HEAD...!
UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE TURNED INTO SOME BASE METAL, MULTI-FRACTOR... YOU MUST...
... BRING ME THE HEAD OF THE PUNISHER.


THIS EXO-MUSCULAR UNDERSUIT RESPONDS TO AND TRIGGERS MY OWN MOVES THROUGH BIO-SYNERGETIC LINKS...
I'M PROGRAMMING IT WITH THE BEST TECHNIQUES OF THE GREATEST MASTERS OF THE MARTIAL ARTS.
BECAUSE, AFTER I KICKED THE CYBER NOSTRA OUT OF THE BARRIO, I KNOW THEY'LL BE HUNTING ME...
SO I'M HITTING THEM FIRST.
OKAY... LET'S ROCK.


THE CYBER-NOSTRA HAVE JUST MADE A PICKUP... UNI-DRAFTS-CASH CARDS... REGULAR PROTECTION MONEY CREAMED FROM THE GRAY BALL STADIUM...
UNI-DRAFTS ARE THE ONLY HARD CURRENCY USED TODAY, COMPLETELY UNTRACEABLE. THE NOSTRA USE THEM AS [redacted] TO PAY OFFICIALS.
HOLO-BEAM FROM MY BIKE SHOULD SEND THEM OFF THE ROAD...
WH-WHERE DID THAT WALL COME FROM?
IT'S A HOLO, YOU JERK! GO THROUGH IT! DON'T...
KRAASH

SOMEONE SET UP THAT HOLO... AND WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S DEAD!
FRACTOR! SOMEONE DOWN THERE!
WELL, WADDA YA KNOW...? IT'S [redacted] PUNISHER!
SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF TRACKING YOU DOWN!
TRACKING ME...? I JUST BROUGHT YOU DOWN, JERK, AND I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER YOUR NAME.
HOW ABOUT "DEAD MEAT"?
THE POWER OF THIS UNDERSUIT IS INCREDIBLE...
NO WAY I COULD MAKE THIS LONG DISTANCE FLYING KICK WITHOUT IT...

NOT ONLY DOES IT NEVER MISS, IT'S SO POWERFUL IT TOTALLY PULRS THE OPPONENT...
...SQUISHES HIM INTO A SACK OF JELLO...
SKRUNCH
NICE KICK...
GUN-HEAD! TAKE HIM OUT!
I'M ON IT!
...MICRO-WAVE SENSORS DETECT THE ANGLES OF THE GUN BARRELS...
MAP THE PROBABLE TRAJECTORIES...
...AND COMPUTE AN EVASIVE SWERVE PATTERN.

THE SUIT GETS ME CLOSE... BUT IT'S ME THAT GIVES HIM THE REVERSE PUNCH TO THE STOMACH...
...WITH POWER SO GREAT IT COLLAPSES HIS INTERNAL ORGANS AND SNAPS HIS SPINE.
I CAN FEEL IT SNAPPING...
IT FEELS GOOD.
IMPRESSIVE WORK. BUT YOU'LL NEED TO DO BETTER WHEN YOU FACE ME.
I'VE GOT ORDERS TO COME BACK WITH YOUR HEAD.
YOU WANT MY HEAD...?
HERE IT IS!

IS THAT YOUR BEST SHOT...? YOU JUST BUTTED A MAN WHO'S USED TO LANDING ON HIS HEAD AT TWO HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR!
I'M AN EX-GRAV BALL PLAYER, DEADWARE! I USED TO WORK OUT WITH MONKEYS LIKE YOU IN SUITS JUST LIKE THAT!
I KNOW EVERY MOVE YOUR EXO-SHIT'S GONNA MAKE... AND I'VE NEVER LOST!
NEXT: TECHNO-GLADIATORS!

TARGET PRACTICE

Joey Cavalieri, Editor • Sarra Mossoff, Assistant Editor

c/o Marvel Comics • 387 Park Avenue South • New York, New York 10016

All letters for publication must include your name and address, although we will gladly withhold that info upon request.

OUT OF MY HEAD

2099 mania marches on!

Pat and Tony were here in New York for 2099 Writers' Conference II, taking an especially keen interest in what I'll call this town's more, er, festive neighborhoods. Field research for this mag!

If you like their work on this book, check out RAVAGE 2099, starting with issue #8! They did the scripting on that one, and will take over the book for good immediately after! I think you'll be impressed with their new direction for the character, and that's putting it mildly!

Dear *Target Practice*,

Issue #1 was great! I was expecting it for a long, long time. I love Punisher, and the 2099 Universe, so I couldn't wait for this comic. It's sweet.

But what I wanted to comment on was issue #2! It was better than issue #1! The way you explained the invisibility function on his bike was awesome and I loved how Jake Gallows stepped seemingly right out of a brick wall!

I can't wait for issue #3. But I have only one gripe on the covers of issues #1 and #2. They were awesome, but they were almost identical to each other and to PUNISHER WAR ZONE #1's cover. I can foresee some GREAT covers for this title, but try not to make them identical to other stuff.

Derek Dryg
(Address withheld by request)

We take a special interest in the covers, Derek, and we don't try to duplicate on purpose. We just figure "great minds think alike."

Dear *Target Practice*,

When the first Punisher series came out I thought, "this is good." When the PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL came out I said, "this is the best." Now the PUNISHER 2099 has come out and I am a little lost for words. This is the Punisher increased by 2099%.

By the way, get rid of Matt Axel. Microchip he's not. This guy is too wimpy. I think he could easily be replaced by an android.

I'm really impressed by the futuristic technologies, especially the face scrambler. The digital skull is a nice tribute to Frank Castle.

There are a lot of genetic mishaps in this future but are there any plans to introduce alien beings from outer space? I also would like to see Jake Gallows get into a full-blown shootout, the kind that the original Punisher usually fought.

Norman Tamondong
27787 Tampa Ave.
Hayward, CA 94544

Give Matt a chance, Norm! No plans to introduce villains from outer space—but wait till you see what he's up against in the big crossover "The Fall of the Hammer," this December!

Dear Joey and Sarra,

Wow! Hey, guys, what a hot series! I love it! With Tom, Jim, and Ian on art and Pat and Tony writing, this will be a hot book! I had been waiting for this title for some time and it was worth the wait! A few questions though:

1) Is this Fear Master the Kingpin of 2099?

2) Will Jake interact with any of the other 2099 titles?

3) I heard that Wolverine was going to be in issue #4! Will he get his own 2099 series or is he just slated for guest appearances now?

And now some comments:

1) What an arsenal! All sorts of weapons, guns, rocket launchers, and his "prison"...awesome! My faves are the H.D. stealth stinger and the power bat.

2) His suit is unreal! What a great drawing of his skull!

3) This guy could waste Castle! He is even crazier than Frank is!

Guess that's it for now. Keep those writers! They are excellent! I loved how they played out that TR pusher's death until the last page! Jake, keep punishing!

John F. Becerra, Jr.
5228 Pine Rd., NE
Bremerton, WA 98310

1) He is in the sense that he's a major villain in the book.—

2) Yep, *all* of 'em, at the end of this year!

3) That wasn't Wolverine last issue! Still, X-MEN 2099 will hit the racks in August with a line-up of wild *new* characters!

Dear Punishers,

PUNISHER 2099 is on my must-buy list!

You at the 2099 offices have crafted great stories for the so-called 2099 futureverse. All of the stuff has been top quality, and has put a new twist on old characters as well as new ones alike. Pat Mills and Tony Skinner wrote an excellent story in issue #1. Jake Gallows is an interesting character, assigned to hunt down The Punisher...who he just happens to be. Gallows suffered the same basic trauma that Frank Castle did, and he is going to start a war on crime much like his predecessor did, but differently. Technology is better, crime is tougher. Skinner and Mills added a new twist to this classic story, too, with having no one know Punisher's identity. The use of flashbacks in the script was also a beneficial tool. Kron is a much different killer than the ones that slaughtered Castle's family...he is even more deranged than any mob hit man, and should pose a great threat to 2099. I'd also like to see explored more about what time Castle actually died, and at the hands of whom. Establishing continuity like that should be an important part of the futureverse. Castle must have died fairly young, as he couldn't be fighting at 80 years old, could he?

The artwork and logo were also spectacular. Tom Morgan's done some fine work in his day, but this is the best. He's brought his normal flair and style to this title, but better. I met Tom recently and not only is he a great talent, but he's also quite polite. Jim Palmiotti did a nice job inking the talented Mr. Morgan. I hope that they, along with colorist Ian Laughlin, keep up the excellent work.

I guess that's about it. I'm sure that the 2099 comics will prosper into the future, and will continue to give us top-quality work. As for other characters that deserve the 2099 treatment—you decide. I do hope, though, that at least one other book debuts with a rejuvenated 1993 character. How about it? See you next issue.

Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 2197
Union, NJ 07083-2197

We prefer to leave the death of Frank Castle to the readers' imaginations. What fun would it be to know everything about his demise? It'd be like knowing how a story comes out before you even start it!

Dear *Target Practice*,

A few suggestions: You should have more of Matt Axel helping Jake out with his work. I would like to see him more often, supplying weapons, and other things. Also, I think you should have an arch enemy come along that doesn't get killed off for several issues. Upon trying to destroy him, Jake meets other criminal foes (you made Kron Stone die so quickly—he would have made a great arch enemy). Keep up the awesome work!

Dan McBride
8 Glenside Drive
Annadale, NJ 08801

NEXT ISSUE: Multi-Fractor's been aching to tear off a piece of the Punisher...and he may get his chance in the hand-to-hand match we call..."Techno-Gladiators!"

MORE OF MARVEL 2099

SPIDER-MAN 2099 #9 Our hero goes home to rest and visit his mom...and immediately wishes he'd stayed Downtown! See what Peter David and guest artists Kelley Jones and Mark McKenna have come up with to plague Spidey now!

RAVAGE 2099 #7 Stan Lee and Paul Ryan unleash "The Vengeance of Dragonklaw" as Ravage plumbs the depths of New Atlantis to save his friends! And check out the Tom Grindberg cover!

DOOM 2099 #6 Wire and Doom confront a team of cybernauts that look an awful lot like the Fantastic Four! That's just the opening! Wait'll you meet Duke Stratosphere! All this...and Fever, too!

2099 UNLIMITED #1 Our quarterly compendium finally premieres! Spidey faces off against the menace of Mutagen...and read the dynamic debut of the Hulk 2099!